



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: September 3, 2014

FR: Adam Noelting, Senior Planning Section

W.I. 1121

RE: Draft Guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans

Background

Government Code Section 66531 authorized Bay Area counties to develop Countywide Transportation Plans (CTPs) on a voluntary basis, and directed MTC to develop guidelines to assist CMAs and other appropriate agencies in the development of the CTPs. MTC adopted the original CTP Guidelines in 1989 as MTC Resolution 2120, and last updated the guidelines in 2000. The counties of the Bay Area have different communities, transportation systems, and transportation needs that must be considered in their countywide planning efforts. The Draft CTP Guidelines are intended to:

- Inform the relationship between CTPs and Plan Bay Area while respecting both local needs and regional priorities;
- Assist implementation of SB 375 and MAP-21; and
- Identify appropriate content to include in the development of CTPs.

Update Process

Over the last several months, staff has engaged partners and stakeholders from the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) and the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) to revise and update MTC's CTP Guidelines. At the Policy Advisory Council's July 2nd meeting, staff presented a summary of the proposed changes to the existing guidelines. Following the Policy Advisory Council's July meeting, an initial draft of updated CTP Guidelines were presented at public workshops held July 22nd and July 24th. Approximately 50 representatives of MTC's RAWG and PTAC attended the workshops, and an additional 9 letters were submitted with comments on the initial draft of the guidelines. The initial draft of the updated guidelines was based on feedback received at a workshop and in writing in June. Attachment A is MTC's revised Guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans ("Guidelines"). Attachment B is the summary of changes to the CTP Guidelines updated from your July meeting.

Updated Guidelines

Two key, yet conflicting, comment themes were made throughout the update process. The first theme expressed an opinion that the CTP Guidelines should be flexible, and in turn CTPs should reflect local priorities and stimulate innovation. The second theme expressed an opinion that the CTP Guidelines should promote consistency with Plan Bay Area (PBA) by aligning various elements of PBA, including the performance targets, equity framework, and public participation process.

The updated guidelines strengthen the link to PBA by including references and technical information to key elements of PBA, including public outreach and participation, performance approach and targets, jobs and housing forecasts, and equity emphasis. In addition, the updated guidelines encourage the counties to partner with MTC while developing their CTPs, and in turn, MTC staff will make technical and staff resources available to assist counties while developing their CTPs (e.g., documentation on PBA's equity analysis and its underlying data).

Effective Date

Currently, five Bay Area counties are in the process of updating their CTPs, and two counties have adopted CTPs within the last two years. MTC is proposing that the updated CTP Guidelines go into effect for CTPs initiated after October 1, 2014, consistent with federal and state rulemaking processes.

Next Steps

Staff will present the Draft CTP Guidelines to MTC's Planning Committee on September 12, 2014. Comments from the Policy Advisory Council will be considered in finalizing the updated guidelines before they are presented to the Commission on September 24th, 2014, for approval. Once approved, a copy of the updated guidelines will be posted to MTC's website at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/ctp/>.

Attachment A, Guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans
Attachment B, Summary of Changes (since the July 2nd Draft)